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WEDNESDAY
APRIL 1, 1953

There was no hurry about reaching Holland today, for the Dutch officials are busy attending memorial services for Dowager Queen Mary of England. Accordingly, we left with the Cowens at 10:00 o'clock by motor for Antwerp.

There we visited the Consulate, another gaudy, shamingly conspicuous FBO horror, then went through the beautiful Peter Paul Rubens house which is worth a trip of hundreds of miles to see - a marvelous restoration. Then to the glorious museum of the printing and engraving family of Pantin. It must be visited to be believed. We had a hurried tour through the varied and in parts beautiful collections at the Museum Mayer Van Den Bergh. We lunched expensively (everything in Belgium seems to be expensive) and exceedingly well in a famous waterfront restaurant in Antwerp.

The Cowens left us to pursue our route to The Hague. We saw some of the remains of the recent and terrible flood damage - the worst disaster of its kind since the Middle Ages - on our way to the capital, where we were set down at the Hotel des Indes, which faces upon one of the finest squares in the world. It was a matter of minutes before I was in the conversational grip of the Acting Chief of Protocol. That done, E. and I strolled about admiring the wonderful eighteenth century houses before going to dinner with the Bill Trimbles. They have a fine U. S. Government house with a huge garden.

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